# THE CRUEL French Lady:

OR,

## A true and perfect Relation of the most

execrable Murthers committed by a *French Lady* upon the persons of her own Father, two Brothers and Sister; with a particular account how she contracted for 12000 Crowns with a *French* Apothecary to extract Poysons for her, which he (taught by the Devil) had found out an Art to do beyond all humane Imagination, so that they would kill, either to a minute, an hour, a day, a week, a month, or a year.

WITH

## The manner how they put them in

use, by writing of Letters, and otherwise; to the destruction of several of the said Ladies principal Relations, and others, to the number of 50. and upwards, most Persons of Quality.

TOGETHER

## With an Account how their Deviliſh

Practice came to be discovered by the Apothecaries breaking one of his own Vials of Poyson, which poysoned himself; and how the Lacquay, who used to be the hellish conveyer of the said Poysons, was broke alive on the Wheel; but the Lady is yet escaped.

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# THE CRUEL
# French Lady, &c.

NEver did any Age of Mankind produce such horrid Villanies and Impieties in all Kingdoms, nor ever was the Devil so busie in laying his gins and snares, and in training Man to lewdness as in this, wherein his power of seducing is grown stronger, and his wicked temptations more prevalent than ever, as if his Chains were loosened, and he left at liberty like a roaring Lyon to devour whom he pleased; which will best appear by the ensuing Relation, the Horrour of which no Time nor History could ever Parallel.

In the famous City of *Paris* there was living very lately (and might still have been living, had there not issued from his Loins a Monster in Nature) a very Noble Gentleman, whose Name, (because it is not fit all should be blasted for the sin of one) we will conceal under that of Monsieur *du Puys*, and so call him wherever we shall have occasion to speak of him in the ensuing Relation. This worthy Gentleman had for the whole course of his life preserved a fair Fame and Reputation, suitable to the Nobleness of his extract, and by a Lady no less virtuous than fair, had Issue left him two Sons and two Daughters; the Eldest of all a Daughter, who by her Execrable Impiety has made her self our present subject.

Yet this Lady, as she was the first born, so she was in her Youth the joy and delight of her Father, who seeing her grow up more and more as well in beauty as (in all outward appear-

ance ) in virtuous inclinations redoubled his care over her, and assoon as she came to years befitting a married Estate, matched her with a young and Noble Cavalier of a plentiful Estate, which was much augmented and strengthned by the vast Portion which Monsr. *du Puys*, who well could spare it, bestowed on his beloved Daughter, being no less than 300000 *livres* or 25000 l. sterling.

This young Cavalier and his fair Lady lived for some years with all possible outward splendour, content and reputation, no persons of Quality in the whole City of *Paris* having a more proper or better adjusted Retinue than they, or kept a handsomer Port both abroad or at home, no Liveries were neater and scarce richer than theirs no Coaches more fitted to State with Horses and all appurtenances sutable, no Table better furnished nor with more variety, none of their Rank exceeded them in number of Gentile attendance, nor was there any thing wanting might compleat worldly Pride and Magnificence.

But whether by straining thus to appear great and splendid in the world, they weakned their Estate as great as it was, or whether it proceeded from some secret judgment of God, or rather from some close and sly debauchery in the young Cavalier, who is said to be privately a great haunter of Ladies of pleasure, in which report likewise makes his Lady to cry quits with him, and that in so rank a manner, that ( besides others more costly ) she submitted to such an intimate familiarity with one of her Lacquey's, that his saucinesse and freedom with her was perceived by her Father Monsr. *du Puys*, who in just anger and disdain caused the said Lacquay to be imprisoned; but whether by the consuming thus on both hands to satisfie their sensual appetites, or by what other means it came to pass, so it was, that they had not been fourteen years married before their vast Estate became so shattered and broken, that with all the shifts they could possibly make, it was impossible for them long to keep up and maintain that Port and State which they had begun in the world.

Pride

Pride in the heart of a Woman is as fierce a paſſion as ambition is in mans; they can with patience endure any thing rather than a ſuppreſſion of their vain-glory, and nothing ſooner hurries them into deſpair, than a fear to ſtoop lower than what they have been. This Lady now could not chooſe but viſibly perceive the decay of her glory, and how ere long ſhe muſt be forced to yield in bravery to Ladies ſhe had hitherto ſurpaſſed; this frets her inwardly, and ſhe rends and tears her Spirits to prevent it, and the Devil finding this hole in her Heart open, ſoon enters, and tells her, that her father had ſtill ſuch vaſt poſſeſſions as would fully content her Ambition, but ſhe had already her ſhare of his Eſtate, and could reaſonably expect no more, unleſs ſhe would attempt the means to arrive at it, which could be no otherwiſe compaſſed, but by taking out of the way thoſe that ſtood between her and her hopes, though they were her own Brothers and Siſters.

The Devil having thus baited his Hook with ſuch a Golden bait, ſhe eaſily ſnaps at, and caſting all fear of God behind her, and without having any conſideration of the hainouſneſs or unnaturalneſs of the Murthers ſhe was about to continue, being againſt her own Fleſh and Blood; ſhe reſolves no obſtacle ſhall ſtand between her and the enjoyment of ſo great an Eſtate to feed her Luſt and Pride, and the Enemy of Mankind who had put this into her heart, would not leave her without means to act it: She had long been acquainted with a certain Apothecary, a cunning Villain and a notable Chymiſt; This Acquaintance ſhe now turns into a cloſer familiarity, and having at length made him ſhare in her cloſeſt favours, thought ſhe had now ſo tyed him to her, that ſhe might diſcloſe her whole mind to him, which in the midſt of Embraces ſhe does, and finds him as ready to help forward her diveliſh deſigns, as ſhe was to deſire it; promiſing to furniſh her with ſuch Artificial and powerful Extracts of Poyſon, as ſhould diſpatch at any limited time, either of a minute, hour, day, week, month year or more, and never leave any mark of ſuſpition on the Body.

With

With this ſweet promiſe ſhe is quite overjoyed, and already in her hopes devours all her Fathers Eſtate, and more than that, flatters her ſelf with the being revenged on any perſon ſhould dare to enjure her. Well, the Devil and the Apothecary keep touch, and in leſs than a twelve-months time ſhe ſees her two Brothers and ſeveral others, whom her helliſh Malice had practiſed upon, linger away in a ſtrange but unſuſpected manner, her Lacquay being her Emiſſary to diſtribute about her Deaths, which ſhe ſent either in Letters or Gloves, or other Preſents; the poyſon being wrought ſo ſtrong, that by the ſmelling it infected the whole Blood, and committed Murthers ſo ſucceſsfully, that now greedy to have all in her hands, or inſtigated by this Lacquay in revenge of his Impriſonment, ſhe ſends likewiſe her fatal Spell to her own Father and Siſter, for ſhe would not admit a ſharer with her.

Oh horred Cruelty! Oh Damnable Woman! worſe than a Cannibal, who though he deſtroy his kind, preſerves his kindred. Could'ſt thou think, becauſe thy Poyſons left no ſymptomes for mans eye to diſcover them, that the eye of Heaven ſaw not thy Execrable Villany? and that it would for ever let thee run on in proſperous Murther? No certainly, the times draws nigh, when thy whole Practice ſhall come to light, and thou ſhalt reap nothing of all thy hopes, but ſhame and horrour here, and, without Gods infinite Mercy, Eternal Damnation hereafter.

Whil'ſt this Young Lady and her damn'd Apothecary were tryumphing in the height of all their Villany, he happened (as he had finiſhed compounding a freſh ſtock of Potions for this wretched Lady, and was putting the Vialls into a little Cabinet wherein he uſed to ſend them to her) to let fall one of the Vialls of the ſtrongeſt preparation, which breaking, the fumes ſtruck ſo ſtrongly up into his Brain, that not being before prepared of an Antidote, he found all he could apply would now prove in vain, and that he muſt preſently die; but before he expires, ſuch is his kindneſs to his Co-partner in Wickedneſs and Murther, that he haſtens all he can to make up the Cabinet,

and

and having fast locked and sealed it, Directs it to the Lady; and calling in all haste for his man, bids him run speedily and deliver it to none but the Lady's own hands.

The young Man runs, but as God had in his Providence ordered it, finds not the Lady at home, so returns immediately with it; but for all his haste, such was the strength of the Poysons Operation, that at his return he finds his Mistris bewailing over her dead Husband, who spying the Cabinet under her mans Arm, demands it of him, and seeing it directed to the Lady, having before had some jealousie of the secret Commerce between her Husband and that Lady, locks it safely up.

Soon after the City Provost coming to take an Inventory of the goods of the deceased, according to Custome, there finds the Cabinet, and seeing it directed to the Lady, would out of respect have immediatly sent it her; but such was the importunity of the Apothecarie's Widdow, and she gave such reasons for her importunity, that he was at length prevailed with to open it first; but upon opening it, he was amazed to find on the top a contract under the Ladies hand, to pay the Apothecary 12000 Crowns when she should get possession of her Fathers Estate, with several little Billets intimating her intrusting her Lacquay to be her Executioner, and in the bottom of the Cabinet was a Case of small Vialls, one having written on it, *A strong Extract of Poyson for present dispatch*; the others, *Poyson for a Week, for a Month, for a Year, &c.*

Upon sight of this he immediately sends to the Lieut. Criminal & shews it him, who forthwith speeds away to apprehend the Lady; but whether she had Intelligence from Satan, or by some other means, she had already withdrawn her self, and cannot since be heard of; but he lights on the Lacquay, who being brought before the Judges Criminal, and confronted with the Cabinet and Letters (and a little terrified with the Rack) confesses, he had bin her wicked Emissary to carry death to near 50 persons; whereupon he is condemned to be broken alive upon the

the Wheel, which was accordingly executed, and the Apothecary's Body was burnt to ashes, and thrown into the Air.

Monsr. *Du Puys* died about the same time with the Apothecary, having languished long before, and his other Daughter though not yet dead, is blind with the force of the Poyson. The Cavalier her Husband is thought likewise to have had a Cast of her Office, being ever since in a doleful languishing condition: What is become of this infernal Monster, cannot yet be told, though diligent search hath been made for her. Some say, her Relations have shut her up in some Monastery, to prevent the shame which would by her Execution fall upon two Noble Families.

FINIS.

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